



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Southern District of Indiana*

*10 West Market Street
Suite 2100
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3048*

*(317)226-6333
TDD (317)226-5438*

*FAX NUMBERS:
Criminal (317)226-6125
Administration (317)226-5176
Civil (317)226-5027
FLU (317) 226-6133
OCDETF (317)226-5953*

April 17, 2003

CONTACT PERSON:

SUSAN W. BROOKS
United States Attorney
(317) 226-6333

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**VINCENNES MAN SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS
IN \$73 MILLION METH TRAFFICKING OPERATION IN
SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that DEON GANTT, 27, Vincennes, Indiana, was sentenced to 360 months imprisonment late yesterday by U.S. District Judge Richard L. Young following his guilty plea to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. This case was the result of a yearlong investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Evansville Police Department, Gibson County Sheriff's Department, Vincennes Police Department, and Daviess County Sheriff's Department that resulted in the arrest and conviction of fifteen other individuals.

The investigation largely involved wiretaps conducted over a cellular telephone used by Brian Davis. Brian Davis and his cousin, Jerome Davis, were the local managers for a

-More-

GANTT - 2

methamphetamine distribution organization that operated in southwestern Indiana from mid-1999 through November 28, 2001. The organization's kingpin, Wilfredo Barrios, was convicted by a jury in Evansville on March 12, 2003 for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise. During the wire surveillance, DEA seized forty pounds of methamphetamine, with a street value of over \$1.8 million. Trial testimony established that the organization distributed approximately 1,660 pounds of methamphetamine, with a street value of over \$73 million, during its two years of operation. Deon GANTT was a drug runner for the organization from June, 2000 until October 25, 2002. GANTT met Barrios' drug couriers at hotels near the Indianapolis and Nashville, Tennessee airports and obtained methamphetamine from these couriers. GANTT then transported the methamphetamine to Vincennes and Evansville and delivered the methamphetamine to Jerome Davis and Brian Davis for redistribution to their customers. GANTT was arrested on September 30, 2001, in Nashville after intercepted telephone communications revealed that he had received a twenty pound shipment of methamphetamine from one of Barrios' couriers.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Bradley A. Blackington, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Young also imposed five years supervised release following GANTT's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, GANTT must submit to random searches of his person and residence. Brian and Jerome Davis, who pled guilty before trial, will be sentenced on June 17, 2003 and Barrios will be

-More-

GANTT - 3

sentenced on July 15, 2003.

####

brookspress03.108.wpd